

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY FOR:

July 14, 1997

Office of Legislative Affairs
Room 5121 South Agriculture Bldg.
(202) 720-2771
For additional information contact:
Danny D. Sells
Douglas E. Williams
Douglas J. McKalip
Joseph R. DelVecchio (serving on detail)

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LAST WEEK:

HOUSE MARK UP OF FY98 AGRICULTURE APPROPRIATIONS -

FULL COMMITTEE

On Wednesday, the House Appropriations Committee (Chairman Livingston, R-La.) held a meeting to mark up the FY98 appropriations measure as approved by the subcommittee on June 25th. NRCS appropriations stayed the same as had been approved by the subcommittee, and reported in our June 30th Legislative Summary.

LEGISLATION OF NOTE-

The following bills of significance to NRCS and conservation were recently introduced:

| Bill | Member | Purpose |
|-----------|----------------|---|
| H.R. 1842 | Chenoweth (ID) | Would terminate further development and implementation of the American Heritage Rivers Initiative |
| H.R. 2117 | Pitts (PA) | "Farm Preservation Act of 1997" would amend estate tax policy regarding farm inheritance |
| H.R. 2155 | Neumann (WI) | Would authorize the continuation of the nationwide permitting process discharges of dredged or fill materials |
| S. 953 | Shelby (AL) | "Private Property Owners' Bill of Rights Act", would institute and administrative appeals process on wetland determinations under the Clean Water Act |

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THIS WEEK:

AMERICAN HERITAGE RIVERS -

The House Committee on Resources (Chairman Don Young, R-Alaska) will hold an oversight hearing on the American Heritage Rivers Initiative. The hearing will focus on the Council on Environmental Quality's request for comments published in the Federal Register on May 19, 1997.

Witnesses: Dan Glickman, Secretary, Department of Agriculture
Bruce Babbitt, Secretary, Department of the Interior
Kathleen McGinty, Director, Council on Environmental Quality

July 15 10:00 a.m. 1324 Longworth Bldg.

SENATE MARK UP OF FY98 AGRICULTURE APPROPRIATIONS -

SUBCOMMITTEE

The Agriculture, Rural Development and Related Agencies Subcommittee (Chairman Cochran, R-Miss.) of the Senate Appropriations Committee will mark up FY98 appropriations for programs under its jurisdiction.

July 15 9:00 a.m. 138 Dirksen Bldg.
(This mark up was originally scheduled for July 17th.)

FULL COMMITTEE

The Senate Appropriations Committee (Chairman Stevens, R-AK) will hold a meeting to mark up the FY98 appropriations measure as approved by the subcommittee.

July 17 2:00 p.m. 106 Dirksen Bldg.

HOUSE FLOOR ACTION ON FY98 AGRICULTURE APPROPRIATIONS -

The House appears to be ready to take a final vote on the Agriculture Appropriations bill, perhaps beginning consideration as early as Wednesday, July 16.

USDA CIVIL RIGHTS REPORT -

House Agriculture Committee (Chairman Smith, R-Or.) will hold a hearing to review the Agriculture Department's Civil Rights Action Team report.

July 17 2:00 p.m. 1300 Longworth Building

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LOOKING AHEAD:

FY98 AGRICULTURE APPROPRIATIONS -

It is anticipated that the House and Senate will pass their respective appropriations bills before the August recess. This will allow for the conferees to work out any difference between the two measures during the August recess and have a conference report ready for final passage once Congress reconvenes in September.

IMPACT OF CLEAN AIR REGULATIONS ON AGRICULTURE - The Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee (Chairman Lugar, R-Ind.) will hold a hearing on the impact of newly proposed clean air regulations on the agriculture industry.

Witness: Carol Browner, Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency

July 22 9:00 a.m. 328 Russell Bldg.

SENATE BRIEFING ON BUFFER INITIATIVE -

The Chief, along with others in the partnership, will discuss the agency's conservation buffer initiative with Members of Congress and their staffs.

TBA (This briefing was originally scheduled for July 9.)

CONGRESSIONAL RECESS -

The traditional August recess is scheduled for August 2 through September 1, 1997. This provides members a chance to spend time in their districts. Members will return to Washington September 2.

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